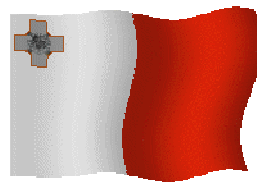


MARL



MALTA



Magazine by MARL

For Maltese and Gozitan
Radio Amateurs

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Tpejjipx
No Smoking

Smoking is prohibited at the Centre

From the Editor

Friends,

I welcome you to another issue of this magazine for September 2010, which is issue 54 of this series.

Last time there was a discussion on the radio about someone calling break, break, break without giving his callsign and on when someone says break. Normally when someone wants to speak to someone else while he is speaking to another he will leave a little pause in transmission and say break once because otherwise there will be someone who will think that there is an emergency.

Therefore I thought that in this issue I will give some information about signals that were used so that ships show that they required assistance, or if they needed something urgently or has some warning on the security of other ships, both on a frequency of **500kHz** as well as **2182kHz**.

The yearly **BBQ** this time is going to be held on Saturday 18 September. You will find details at the end of this Magazine and we hope to see you so that together we will enjoy ourselves meeting with the families in this yearly occasion.

In this issue you also have some photos of five groups of Maltese radio amateurs who are not only working on **10 GHz**, but also on **SSB** and had contacted each other from five different places at the same time.

It's good that foreign radio amateurs organizations especially those around the Mediterranean to know that Maltese radio amateurs are working on these frequencies so that they can inform their radio amateurs to be able to try to make contact on those frequencies with Maltese radio amateurs.

As you know, **MARL** offers a service so that those radio amateurs who have something to sell or want to buy something may be able to send us the details and we publish them both on this magazine as well as on our website. Therefore if you want to sell or buy something write to us and we will give you our service.

Since in August the Italian ex-President Francesco Cossiga died and he was also a radio amateur, you have some information about him.

As always, I hope that you find the information in the magazine useful to you and if you have some article please leave it in my **QSL** box or you can send it to me on my e-mail **9h1av at searchmalta dot com**.

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

 Licence examination

Those who have passed the examination and whose name appears hereunder and their call sign is not there please tell me your call signs and other details such as address, e-mail address and if you have your webpage so that I can put them both on the magazine as well as on the Maltese and Gozitans radio amateurs list.

John Dacoutros	9H5JD
Francis Micallef	9H5FM
Maurizio Banavage	9H5IT
Eleno Borg	9H5TX
Peter Paul Camilleri	??????
Spiridione Caruana	9H5BZ
Dean Gravina	9H5KD
Carmelo Caruana	9H5CÇ

Joseph Pisani 9H5JQ also please give me your **9H1** call sign that you have now.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

Very Low Frequencies

If one wants to get good information on very low frequencies s/he can go to the internet website <http://www-star.stanford.edu/~vlf/Welcome.html>

There there are a number of links among them one where there is a good number of thesis that one can download, another on publications that go back to 1960 that one can also download, as well as other useful information.

In the true sense of the word a mine of information not only for those who want to study on very low frequencies but on many subjects connected in some manner with radio and electronics.

For Sale

John Dacoutros has these things for sale.

Spanish power supply make KERT gives 12 amp DC & 13.8 volt with a switch for 12 volts. Brand new, excess to requirements. Offers?

Power supply ZETAGI Model 1230S brand new, 6 sa 15-il volt DC variable, with meters for voltage u amperes and controls, gives 30 Amps from 230 V. Brand new in perfect condition never used. Offers?

CB radio MAXON complete with microphone. Offers?

SWR meter ZETAGI model 203 - power to 1 Kw. Offers?

Car roof aerial – magnetic – for CB frequencies Offers?

Contact John Dacoutros on [john at dacoutros.com.mt](mailto:john@dacoutros.com.mt)

Break Break Break

Sometimes one hears someone calling break break break to try to enter into a communication in progress between two radio amateurs. This is not the procedure that should be used for a number of reasons.

First of all it's not ethical that one tries to break into an ongoing conversation if at least those who are carrying out the conversation do not invite someone who may be listening to enter into the discussion with them.

Apart from this, it is not the procedure that one should use because when one wishes to talk to someone that is already talking to another who may perhaps be his friend or friends s/he should wait that they pass transmission to each other and only say break once and not two or three.

This is because if you say break two or three times you will be indicating that there is some emergency and you wish to have the assistance of those talking. When they ask who is there you should give your callsign so that they will immediately know who you are.

Now since we are talking on these things it's good to explain some things that were and some of them still are used for one to call for assistance, indicate that there is an urgency message or a security message.

Emergency

When ships and aircraft used to use Morse Code on **500 kcs**, now **500 kHz**, because they used to work on frequencies between **405 kHz** to **535 kHz**, the signal that the ship was in an emergency and required assistance were the letters **SOS ... - -...** sent three times as a single letter then **DE** and the call sign of the ship. As an example

____ _ (12 x 4 seconds with one second space)

SOS SOS SOS DE 9HAR 9HAR 9HAR

This signal would indicate that the ship was threatened with grave and imminent danger and required assistance. This signal had absolute priority on all other signals and all other stations had to stop transmitting and listen to the emergency traffic. The bar on the **SOS** is to indicate that they are sent as one letter without any spaces between the letters.

Naturally if there was time 12 dashes of 4 seconds each with a space of 1 second between each dash were sent because on ship and coast stations there used to be a receiver and equipment that when they receive these signals, normally after the fourth dash, rang bells that in the case of ships used to be in the radio room, radio officer's cabin and the bridge so that if the radio officer was resting he would now that there was a ship calling for assistance. Afterwards there used to be a message that gave the position of the ship and the nature of the emergency and what assistance was required. This equipment had to be left switched on if the radio officer was not in the radio room.

If it was possible two minutes were left between the signal indicated above and the message so that if the radio officer who was not in the radio room hears the bells ringing he would have time to go to the radio room and switch on the equipment. If there was no time the 12 x 4 second dashes as well as the first signal could be left out or shortened.

A typical message would be like this.

— — — — — (12 x 4 seconds with one second space)

SOS SOS SOS DE 9HAR 9HAR 9HAR
(2 minutes would be left if possible)

SOS SOS SOS DE 9HAR 9HAR 9HAR

35.51.30 N 14.37.38 E

SHIP IS SINKING NO TIME TO LAUNCH LIFEBOATS REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

(two dashes of 10 to 15 seconds {for df purposes})

9HAR

If the ship or aircraft was going to be abandoned or the aircraft was falling on land or in the sea, if it was considered necessary or circumstances permit, the transmitter was switched on continuous transmission so that DF stations would be able to fix the exact position. An **SOS** would not be sent to a particular station but to all stations and apart from **500 kHz** a ship or aircraft could use any frequency on which it could attract attention.

It's good that you should know that one of the examinations for a radio officer to be certified was a 5-minute examination that normally was a message from the ship's captain with the ship's position and details of the emergency so that the student would write the message that he would have to send if he were the ship's radio officer. If you failed this examination you would not have been certified and you would have to sit again for all the examinations and not only for this examination.

Urgency

This signal was sent from a ship, aircraft or coast station and used to indicate that the station was going to send a message on the security of a ship, aircraft or person and was only sent on the authority of the captain or person responsible for the coast station.

The urgency signal was **XXX** sent three times, but contrary to **SOS** the letters were not sent as a single letter but separate and distinct and each group separate from the other.

XXX XXX XXX DE 9HAR 9HAR 9HAR

This signal had priority over all other signals except **SOS**.

This signal could be addressed to a particular station or to everyone (**CQ**) and if it was addressed to everyone when there was no longer a requirement for further action, had to be cancelled by another message.

The frequency used was also **500 kHz**, but in heavy traffic areas or when the message was long another frequency was used after an announcement on **500 kHz**. Similar to the distress signal any other frequency where attention could be attracted could be used.

Safety

If a station was going to send a security message, this was preceded by the letters **TTT** sent three times **TTT TTT TTT**. Similar to the emergency signal, the letters were not sent as one letter but separate and distinct and each group separate from each other.

This signal used to show that the station was going to send a message on the security of navigation or important meteorological warnings. Normally a message was sent on **500 kHz** or frequencies used for emergency but then the message proper will be sent on another frequency especially in heavy traffic areas, but a notice was given about this.

2182 kHz

When we come to frequencies between **1605 kHz** to **4000 kHz** where telephony was used, there were other signals. The frequency used in these instances was **2182 kHz**.

In case of an emergency where the ship required assistance the word used was **MAYDAY** (from the French m'aider) for three times. Then there was the message on the ship emergency and what assistance was required.

As there was on **500 kHz** in the case of telegraphy, there was also on this frequency equipment to send certain signals and equipment to receive them that used to signal to the radio officer that a ship required assistance.

In this case, the equipment transmitted alternating signals of **1300 Hz** & **2200 Hz** for not less than half a minute and not more than a minute. Naturally, if the radio officer was in the cabin as in the case of telegraphy he would hear them himself, but if he was not in the cabin he would hear the bells. The two frequencies of **1300 Hz** & **2200 Hz** were chosen because they can be heard quite well even if there was interference.

As an example of an emergency signal after the **1300 Hz** & **2200 Hz** were sent as explained above if possible,

**MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY
THIS IS XLENDI XLENDI XLENDI
MAYDAY XLENDI
FIVE MILES EAST OF DELLIMARA
SHIP IS SINKING AND WE REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE
WE ARE DRIFTING EAST AT TWO KNOTS
OVER**

In the case of urgency, the word **PAN** was used for three times and then the message would follow.

**PAN PAN PAN
THIS IS XLENDI XLENDI XLENDI
FIVE MILES EAST OF DELLIMARA
LOST PROPELLOR
DRIFTING EAST AT TWO KNOTS
REQUIRE TUG URGENTLY
OVER**

In case of security the word used was **SÈCURITÉ** also spoken three times that indicated that the station was going to transmit information on the security of navigation or an important meteorological warning.

I hope that you find this information useful.

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

10 GHz

Today you have some details about an operation that was made on **10 GHz** by Maltese radio amateurs. These were five groups who contacted each other on **10.368.200 GHz SSB**.

These were **Mansueto 9H1GB** who was using a home built **SSB Electronics** transverter and was near the water reservoir in Iz-Zurrieq.

Noel 9H1FX, who was trying his equipment for the first time from Hal-Kirkop with **Mansueto**.

Joe 9H1VW who was working from Mellieħa.



Luckily the skips were near because they had to throw the ice cream away because it was melted by microwaves. **David 9H1TX**

Fortunato 9H1ES was working from Mosta.



Mansueto 9H1GB



Mansueto 9H1GB



Maurizio 9H5IT, Joe 9H1VW



Pullu 9H5PĆ, **Joe 9H1VW**



Marco 9H1BN was working from Paola.

David 9H1TX was with **Mansueto**

9H5IT **Maurizio**, **9H5PĆ** **Pullu**, **9H1AJ** **Joe**, **9H1SF** **Stephen** were in il-Mellieħa

Signals were all 59 except **Fortunato 9H1ES** who was a little down due to a poor **QTH** with respect to the others.

Foreign radio amateurs around the Mediterranean should know that Maltese radio amateurs are working on **50 MHz, 144 MHz, 432 MHz, 1296 MHz, 2.4 GHz 10 GHz u 24 GHz**, as well as on **ATV 13 cm and 3 cm Analogue and Digital**

These contacts were made on Saturday 14 August 2010 between 13.30 u 15.00.

A small note to someone. Remember that when you go portable using a battery and a transverter you have to take the transceiver used as a tunable IF with you.

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

Vanwatu DXpedition

I remind you that a dxpedition is going to be made to **Vanwatu** by four (4) Australian radio amateurs who will be working from there for six days, from 27 August 0001 UTC to 2 September 0100 UTC. Further details are found in the August issue of this Magazine, that is the previous one.

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

Francesco Cossiga



As I think everyone knows a little while ago **Francesco Cossiga** who was a President of Italy died. He was the sixty-third Prime Minister of Italy as well as the Eight President of the Italian Republic. He was born on 26 July 1928 and died on 17 August 2010.

Apart from being a Prime Minister and a President he was also a Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Sassari where he was born. Sassari is found in the North of Sardinia. He was also a cousin of **Enrico Berlinguer**, another Italian politician.

What perhaps many did not know was that **Cossiga** was also a radio amateur and had the callsign **I0FCG**. Thus, he was one of the radio amateurs among well-known persons from around the world. Further information can be found on http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francesco_Cossiga

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

Space Station Temperatures

As you know a little while ago there were problems at the Space Station because they had trouble with a temperature system pump that keeps the temperature stable. If they do not have temperature control the space station temperature will vary from **121°C (250°F)** on the side facing the sun and **-157°C (-250°F)** on the other side.

Lawrence

9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

MARL Activities

BBQ



The annual **MARL** BBQ is going to be held on Saturday 18 September at the **MARL** Club at H'Attard starting at 7.30 in the evening.



Starters
CANAPES / VOL AU VENTS /
STUFFED OLIVES / STUFFED
ECLAIRES / PANINI

Main course:
CHICKEN LEG / PORK LOIN / BEEF BURGER /
FRANKFURTER

or
STEAK FISH CARTOCCIO

COLESLAW / POTATOES / TOMATO / GREEN & RUSSIAN SALAD / BBQ SAUCE /
BREAD & BUTTER

DESSERT

Children main dish
HAMBURGER ON BUN & SAUSAGE

Price ADULTS €12 u CHILDREN €6

BOOKING UNTIL 12 SEPTEMBER PAYMENT WITH BOOKING

NAME, CALL SIGN, NUMBER OF PERSONS, HOW MANY ARE TAKING MEAT,
HOW MANY ARE TAKING FISH, NUMBER OF CHILDREN
CHEQUES TO **MALTA AMATEUR RADIO LEAGUE**

Notte Bianca



The MARL emergency group is going to again give its services to the Civil Protection Department on 25 September 2010. If you hear any emergency traffic please give it precedence. <http://www.nottebiancamalta.com/>

Field Day

On Saturday 2 October **MARL** is going to organize a field day. For whoever is interested to take part a meetign is going to be held on Tuesday 28 September at the **MARL** Centre at 6.30 p.m.



As in previous years **MARL** is going to take part in the Scout Jamboree that is going to be held between 15 to 17 October. Whoever wants to take part and help should send an e-mail to Ivan **9H1PI** on when he can participate.

All those who are already going to set up a station for the Scouts send an e-mail to **9H1PI** to be able to prepare a sked.

Don't forget to take photos and please pass them on to us on my e-mail so that we can publish them on the Magazine. I thank you and thanks to Ivan **9H1PI** for the information.

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR/9H79AV

Yahoo Group

Be attentive and become members in the yahoo group to be fully informed with the latest activities that we intend to hold.

Do not forget that we may have activities which may not be able to appear on this magazine because it may have already been issued and therefore the notice will be sent on the yahoo group.

Send an e-mail to Ivan, **9H1PI** [ivan.privitera at gmail.com](mailto:ivan.privitera@gmail.com) to become members in the group.

We remind you that whoever wants to can download the Magazine from www.9h1mrl.org/newsletter.htm

Lawrence
9H1AV/9H9MHR